



Background:

Fairly or unfairly, US forces have been severely criticized for their part in damaging or failing to protect cultural properties when occupying archeologically sensitive areas in military theatres of occupation. In military operations where winning hearts and minds is a critical component of success, protection of cultural property becomes vital to the success of the mission. Archeologists working at the installation level recognized serious gaps between higher level initiatives for site protection and actual "hands on" training of military personnel who would be occupying archeologically sensitive areas.

Objective:

The objective of this project is to provide practical training materials that are easily available to military personnel at all levels. Specifically, this project is designed to produce four main products:

- Evaluation of Project Products
- A Panel Discussion at the World Archaeology Congress
- Training Materials for Military Personnel
- Continued Improvement for Replica Sites

Summary of Approach:

A key to the potential success of this project is the goal of bringing together representatives of the military archeology community with the academic archeology community, many of whom were unaware that a military archeology community even existed. The project approach is to fund classical archeologists to provide research background material to support soldier training and then to transform this information into useable tools like playing cards. This approach provides concerned archeologists from the academic community an opportunity to provide and share their detailed and vital information where it can be used effectively to support soldiers. The idea is to use military archeologists who are familiar with teaching soldiers and who understand the mission as conduits in this information transfer. The goal is to produce effective training materials that military personnel at all levels will actively use and understand.

Time Line

Summer 2008

- World Archaeology Congress Panel with International Participation

Fall / early Winter 2008

- Mock Cultural Sites Successful, More Requested by Trainers, Continued Improvement
- Site Hardening Successful, Project Expansion Requested by Trainers, Structures Added
- Continued Press Coverage for the Project
- Briefings at All Military Installations in the San Antonio Region

Winter 2008-2009

- AIA Working Group Meeting
- Developed White Paper for DoD Heritage Office
- Developed Guidelines for Environmental Assessment Concerning In Theater Archaeology
- Developed Recommendations for Training MPs
- Discussed Legal Drivers

Spring and early Summer 2009

- Addressed Hague Conference on Cultural Property
- Provided Liaison Support for Transfer of Stewardship of Ur to Iraqi People
- Delivered First On Site Archaeology Training in the Middle East to US Military Personnel, Saqqara, Egypt

Benefit:

The long-term benefit will be better education of US and coalition military personnel when it comes to occupation and possible protection of cultural sites in areas of military deployment around the world. In addition to improved site preservation, this project provides DD with an opportunity to increase public awareness of the fact that the Department of Defense has a strong conservation ethic and has played a major role in discovering and preserving cultural properties not only in the US but on its holdings around the world. A long-term goal would be consistent inclusion of accurate archeological and antiquities information in the deployment training process.

Accomplishments:

The partnership between the Archaeology Institute of American and the Department of Defense is the first robust partnership between academic social scientists and the DoD environmental program. The training materials continue to be well received and multiple copies requested. An edited volume based on the World Archaeology Congress Panel is on its way to the publishers.

Contact Information:

Dr. Laurie W. Rush
Cultural Resources Program Manager
85 First Street West, Fort Drum, NY 13602
Phone: 315-772-4165; Fax: 315-772-1001
laurie.rush@us.army.mil